उत्पादित कोयले की कुल मात्रा 211.62 मिलियन टन थी, जिसमें से 61.57 मिलियन टन कोयले में राख की मात्रा 17% से कम थी ।

**Shifting of Head Quarter of SCCL**

2518. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to shift the Headquarter of S.C.C.L. in the State of Orissa ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to meaterialise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) Bilaspur. In that case there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to shift the headquarters of SECL. However, creation of a separate coal company for Talcher, IB valley and mand-Raigarh coalfields with headquaters in Orissa is under consideration. If the reference is to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) then, it is a company under the administrative control of Government of Andhra Pradesh and according to available information there is no proposal to shift its Hqrs.

**Cost and sale price of coal**

2519. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) What is the cost of production of coal indifferent sectors in the country;

(b) What is its sale price per metric tonne;

(c) Whether Government are importing certain varieties of coal/coke ; and

(d) if so, the price thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) According to information made available by coal companies, avarage cost of production of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited coal were Rs. 277.18 and Rs. 401.05 per tonnes respectively in 1990-91.

(b) The avarage pit-head prices of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited coal are Rs. 249.00 and Rs. 297.00 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir, The import of cooking coal in public sector is mostly resorted to by Steel Authority of India Limited, and Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.

(d) The information is being collected, and to the extent avialable will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Shifting to open cast mining system**

2520. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Asansol Raniganj Coal Belt, mining activities are gradually shifting to open-cast mining system in preference to the traditional mining;

(b) whether excavation of coal is being abandoned in serveral collieries in the belt, several of which hold considerable reserve of quality coal beneath its existing bottoms;

(c) whether the coal reserve of the country, including its quality categorisation has been reviewed, keeping in view the projected demand of the existing as well as future thermal power plant; and

(d) if so, how the quality and estimated quantity of our coal reserve compares with those of the other major coal producing countries in the world?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d) The choice of mining method (Underground and Opencast) in any particular coal deposit is primarily determine by Techno-Economic and Geo-mining factors. It has been reported by ECL that in Asansol-Raniganj coal belt higher preference is given to traditional UG mining system. However share of opencast production in the total production has comparatively increased over the years on account of decline in UG production due to exhaustion of mineable reserves in some existing mines and other factors.

Abandoning extraction of coal leaving behind mineable reserves in the working seams is not adopted in collieries unless warranted by safety grounds and economic considerations.

The coal reserve of the country including its quality categorisation are under constant